

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/828,789
Amendment dated May 14, 2008
Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2008

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested. It is the applicants' understanding that the Notice of Allowance dated March 25, 2008 has been withdrawn and replaced with the present Office Action.

By way of this amendment, claims 1-4, 6-24, 27, 52-53, 56, 91, and 93 are pending. Claim 92 has been canceled. Further, the subject matter of claim 92 has been incorporated into claim 1. Claim 1 recites the use of an iodine source in general as originally claimed. Claim 27 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 10 and a part of claim 91 and to make other editorial changes. Claim 56 has been amended in a similar way. It is noted that the Examiner indicated in the present Office Action that the subject matter of claims 10 and 91 is allowable subject matter if incorporated into the independent claims.

Since the subject matter of claims 10, 91, and/or 92 has been essentially incorporated into each of the independent claims, all claims should be in a further condition for allowance and entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 9, 11-13, 17-18, 23, 24, 27, 52, and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of Hall

At pages 2-3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 9, 11-13, 17-18, 23, 24, 27, 52, and 56 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over applicant's admitted prior art on pages 2-4 and in view of Hall (U.S. Patent No. 2,675,310). The Examiner asserts that based on known manufacturing techniques to form capacitor anodes and in view of Hall, the claims would be obvious. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The applicants do not believe that the combination of standard manufacturing techniques to form a sintered powder and anode in combination with Hall would render the present claims

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obvious, for reasons previously given, for instance, in the Amendment filed March 14, 2007. This rejection should be withdrawn. As stated previously, Hall is not forming a porous, bonded valve metal powder or a sintered porous body, but instead relates to the consolidation of metal powder for powder metallurgy purposes, wherein this material is consolidated such that the material is characterized as (by Hall) "an ingot," wherein bars are formed and the like. See, for instance, col. 3, lines 33-38, of Hall and elsewhere. Hall specifically states that the purpose of the invention of Hall is to consolidate metal powder to form "dense coherent metal by pressing to consolidate the material enough to handle and heating the pressed shape . . ." (see col. 1, lines 28-43 of Hall). Thus, Hall clearly teaches the consolidation and densification of material for purposes of making ingots or metal bars or other shapes and this is not a teaching that the formation is a porous, bonded valve metal powder. Hall teaches densification, which would be the opposite of creating a porous material. Thus, if one combines the teachings of Hall with the alleged admitted prior art, this still would not lead to the methods of the claimed invention, which recite the formation of a porous, bonded valve metal powder. As stated, if one applies the teachings of Hall to the conventional technology of forming tantalum anodes from tantalum powder, this would result in a densification of the material and not a porous, bonded valve metal powder.

For these reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The applicants and the undersigned appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter as set forth in Paragraph 6 of page 5 of the Office Action. In view of the above comments, the applicants believe that all claims should be in condition for allowance.

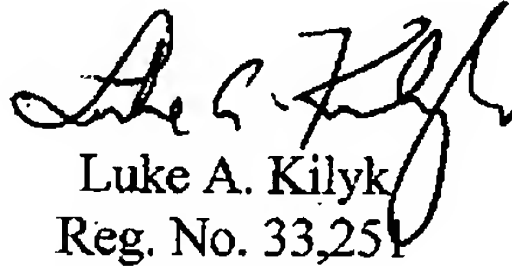
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/828,789
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 03-0060. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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